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Serial No. 09/776,311
Page 3

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** claims 1-6 and add new claims 7-24 in accordance with the Status of the Claims section, *infra*. No new matter has been added.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A printing apparatus for carrying out the printing of having a confidential print function of executing print jobs transmitted from a host device data output device in order of receipt and holding print jobs designated in advance until password entry, said the printing apparatus comprising:

A 1 a function by which a print job to which a password is attached and which is transmitted from said host device is held, together with normal print jobs for which no password entry is required, in a queue which manages the order of all print jobs, until said password is entered; and

A 1 a control unit for sequentially carrying out, upon entry of the password for the password-attached print job that is being held, the printing of the password-attached print jobs in order of entry of the password in preference over the normal print jobs, which require no password entry, that are waiting for print a queue management unit for executing, when passwords for held confidential print jobs are entered, said confidential print jobs in order of password entry, in preference to awaiting normal print jobs which require no password entry.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs in said queue in queue management unit stores received confidential print jobs into a queue with a print hold status, moves a password-attached print job for which the password has been entered a password entered confidential print job to the end of print jobs stored in said queue while releasing the print hold status, and carries out the printing of the password-attached print jobs for which the passwords have been entered in order of release of said print hold status executes confidential print jobs in order of release of said print hold status through password entry.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The printing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, comprising

clock means for clocking a predetermined time from the performance of the printing of said password-attached print job to the performance of the printing of the next password-attached time keeping means for keeping a predetermined time from the execution of a confidential print job to the execution of the next confidential print job, wherein

said control unit, said queue management unit, having completed one password-attached print job, carries out the printing of the next password-attached print job a confidential print job, executes the next confidential print job at least after a said predetermined time has been clocked by said clock means lapse of said predetermined time kept by said time keeping means.

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Claim 4 (currently amended) The printing apparatus according to to claim 2, comprising:

any one of claims 1-3, wherein said queue management unit has a pointer for indicating the end of confidential print jobs stored in said queue.

clock means for clocking a predetermined time from the performance of the printing of said password-attached print job to the performance of the printing of the next password-attached print job, wherein

said control unit, having completed one password-attached print job, carries out the printing of the next password-attached print job at least after said predetermined time has been clocked by said clock means.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The printing apparatus according to claim 1 any one of claims 1-4, wherein said control unit comprises said queue management unit has a pointer for indicating the end of the password-attached normal print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The printing apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating said queue management unit stores confidential print jobs into the top side of a single queue, stores normal print jobs into behind said confidential print jobs, and has pointers both at the end of said confidential print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs stored in said queue.~~

Claim 7 (new) The printing apparatus according to claims 1, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs towards the head of a single queue, and stores said normal print jobs following said password-attached print jobs, said control unit comprising pointers at the end of said password-attached print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs.

Claim 8 (new) The printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display unit for displaying a list of the password-attached print jobs that are stored in said queue in print hold status.

Claim 9 (new) The printing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of the password-attached print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 10 (new) The printing apparatus according to claims 3, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of said normal print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 11 (new) The printing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs towards the head of a single queue, and stores said normal print jobs following said password-attached print jobs, said control unit comprising pointers at the end of said password-attached print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs.

Claim 12 (new) The printing apparatus according to claims 4, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of the password-attached print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 13 (new) The printing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of said normal print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 14 (new) The printing apparatus according to claims 2, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs towards the head of a single queue, and stores said normal print jobs following said password-attached print jobs, said control unit comprising pointers at the end of said password-attached print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs.

Claim 15. (new) A printing method whereby, during the printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required in order of reception, upon entry of a password for a password-attached print job which has been stored in print hold status and for which password entry is required, the printing of the password-attached print jobs is carried out in order of password entry after the printing of the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that is being carried out is over, in preference over the other normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that are waiting for print.

Claim 16 (new) A printing method whereby, during the printing of a password-attached print job for which password entry is required, upon entry of a password for another password-attached print job that has been stored in print hold status, the printing of the latter password-attached print job is carried out after the printing of the password-attached print job that is currently being carried out is over.

Claim 17 (new) A printing method whereby, during the printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required in order of reception, a list of password-attached print job which are stored in print hold status and for which password entry is required is displayed, and, upon entry of a password for any of the password-attached print jobs stored in print hold status, the printing of the password-attached print job is carried out in order of password entry in preference over the normal print jobs that are waiting for print.

Claim 18 (new) A printing apparatus for printing print data transmitted from a host device in order of reception, said apparatus comprising:

a function for holding password-attached print data transmitted from said host device until said password is entered; and

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a control unit for, upon entry of a password for password-attached print data that is being held, sequentially printing the password-attached print data in order of password entry, in preference over normal print data, for which no password entry is required, that is waiting for print.

Claim 19 (new) A printing apparatus for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, in order of reception while putting password-attached print jobs, for which password entry is required, in print hold status, said apparatus comprising:

an input unit via which a password for a password-attached print job is entered; and

a control unit whereby the print hold status of said password-attached print job whose password agrees with the password entered via said input unit is released, and the printing of said password-attached print jobs is carried out in order of password entry, in preference over the normal print jobs that are waiting for print.

Claim 20 (new) The printing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying the password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status when password entry is received via said input unit, wherein said control unit receives a designation of a single password-attached print from among the jobs displayed on said display unit, compares the password of the designated password-attached print job with the password that has been entered via said input unit, and releases the print hold status of said password-attached print job when the passwords agree with each other, thereby rendering the printing of said password-attached print job possible.

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Claim 21 (new) The printing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said display unit displays a plurality of password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of entry of the password via said input unit.

Claim 22 (new) A printing apparatus for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, in order of reception while putting password-attached print jobs, for which password entry is required, in print hold status, said apparatus comprising:

an input unit via which a password for a password-attached print job is entered;

a display unit for displaying a plurality of password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of the entry of the password in said input unit; and

a control unit by which, upon entry, via said input unit, of the password for a password-attached print job that has been designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit, the print hold status of the password-attached print job for which the password has been entered is released and the printing thereof is carried out in preference over the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that are waiting for print.

Claim 23 (new) The printing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said control unit is adapted to give notice in the event that the password for the password-attached print job designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit does not agree with the password entered via said input unit.

Claim 24 (new) A printing system in which print data transmitted, via a server, from a host device is printed by a printer in order of reception, said system comprising:

a function for holding the password-attached print data to which a plurality of passwords are attached and which are transmitted from said host device, until said passwords are entered; and

a control unit by which, upon entry of the password for the password-attached print data that is being held, the password-attached print data is sequentially printed in order of entry of the passwords, in preference over normal print data that are waiting for print and for which no password entry is required.
